

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

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S E C R E T SANA 3149

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SEPR
SUBJECT: TWINAM MEETINGS IN YAR

BEGIN SUMMARY:SEPTELS WILL DISCUSS TWINAM MEETINGS
WITH YAR PRIME MINISTER ABD AL-GHANI, CHAIRMAN
PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AL-ARASHI AND FORMIN AL-ASNAJ.
TWINAM RECEIVED INITIALLY LATE AFRERNOON DAY OF ARRIVAL
27 JUNE BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IBRAHIM
AL-KIBSI WHO OULINED SCHEDULE AND SAID CRUCIAL
QUESTION OF ALL MEETINGS WITH TWINAM WAS WHETHER US
WOULD STAND BEHIND YAR IN CASE OF CONFLICT WITH
RADICALS IN ADEN. END SUMMARY.

1. AL-KIBSI RECEIVED TWINAM AND RANSOM AT FOREIGN
MINISTRY ON 27. JUNE. IBSI SAID FOREIGN MINISTER
ASNAJ HAD BEEN CALLED OUT TO CONTINUE WORK WITH
COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING ASSASSINATION PRESIDENT
GHASHMI, BUT WOULD HOST LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF TWINAM
ON 28 JUNE. KIBSI SAID APPOINTS HAD ALSO BEEN
ARRANGED WITH PRIME MINISTER ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI
LATER IN SAME DAY AND, ON 28 JUNE, WITH CHAIRMAN OF
PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AL-ARASHI (SEE SEPTTEL).

2. KIBSI SPOKE FROM NOTES WHICH HE HAD TAKEN FROM
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EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH ASNAJ. HE SAID YARG SAW
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYI ALI IN ADEN
AND PRESIDENTIAL GHASHMI IN SANA IN SPACE OF THREE
DAYS AS SEPARATE EVENTS BUT LINKED BY SINGLE
CONSPIRACY MOUNTED BY RADICAL WING IN ADEN. HE
CALLED DEATHS VICTORY FOR RUSSIANS AND ARAB RADICAL
GROUPS AND CLAIMED THAT STAGE WAS NOW SET FOR USE

OF CUBANS OUTSIDE AFRICA IN ARABIAN PENINSULA.

3. THE QUESTION HE SAID YEMENI OFFICIALS WOULD ASK
WAS WHETHER US WOULD STAND BEHIND YEMEN IN CASE
OF CONFLICT WITH SOUTH.

4. AMBASSADOR TWINAM RESPONDED ON BASIS INSTRUCTIONS
STRESSING THAT HIS VISIT INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE
US CONCERN FOR YAR AND CONTINUITY OF OUR SUPPORT FOR
STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF YAR THAT HE BORE
PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR CHAIRMAN OF PRESIDENTIAL
COUNCIL AL-ARASHI, AND THAT HE SOUGHT YAR VIEWS ON
SECURITY OF REGION AND DEVELOPMENTS IN PDRY.
HE INDICATED HE WOULD CONVEY ANY QUESTIONS YAR
MIGHT HAVE TO USG.

5. AL-KIBSI ASKED IF USG WAS PREPARED TO FACE RUSSIANS.
YEMENIS, HE SAID, DON'T WANT TO BE A BUFFER BUT WILL
JOIN OTHERS LIKE OMAN, US AND SAUDIS TO CONFRONT THE
THREAT FROM THE SOUTH. KIBSI SAID THE OMANIS HAD SENT
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND FUNERAL THE DAY BEFORE
AND THEY WANTED TO TAKE VARIOUS ACTIONS. TWINAM SAID
NATURE OF OUR RESPONSE WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND ON NATURE
OF SOVIET THREAT AND HOW IT DEVELOPED. HE SAID HE
WOULD BE SEEKING AND WOULD CONVEY TO WASHINGTON
YEMENI VIEWS ON EXTENT AND NATURE OF SOVIET THREAT TO
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REGION.

6. IBSI THANKED TWINAM WARMLY BUT CONCLUDED WITH
REFERENCE TO STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN AL-ARASHI EARLIER IN
DAY TO DIPLOMATES ASSEMBLED TO PAY CONDOLENCES,
MEET NEW GOVERNMENT: "CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY ARE
NOT ENOUGH."

COMMENT: AL-KIBSI INTERVIEW CLEARLY INTENDED TO
INITIATE YAR REQUESTS, PROBE EXTENT THAT TWINAM'S
INSTRUCTIONS REFLECT INCREASED USG SUPPORT FOR YAR
AND SET STAGE FOR YEMENI RESPONSE. SEPTELS WILL
DESCRIBE TWINAM INTERVIEWS WITH PRIME MINISTER
ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI, CHAIRMAN ABD KARIM AL-
ARASHI, AND FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAJ.
RANSOM

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